Basic Searching in PubMed

Making your research question searchable in PubMed	
Research question	What literature exists on the role of the pharmacist in the intensive care unit?
Keyword search	("critical care" OR "critically ill" OR "intensive care" OR ICU) AND pharmacist*
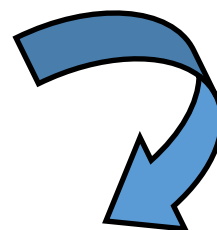
Accessing articles in PubMed:

GetIt! Waterloo link determines if the article is online via the University of Waterloo Library

More PubMed tips & tricks		
AND	Searches for all of the search terms **together**	ginger **AND** nausea
OR	Searches for **any** of the synonymous search terms	(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease **OR** COPD)
( )	Parentheses always **surround synonymous** terms	**(**"critical care" OR "critically ill" OR "intensive care" OR ICU**)**
*	An asterisk searches for **variant endings** of a word	pharmac***** (will look for pharmacist, pharmacists, pharmacy, pharmacies)
" "	Quotation marks search for an **exact phrase**	**"**nursing home**"** (note: you **cannot** use the asterisk AND quotation marks together on the same phrase, e.g. "nursing home*" ➔ you must choose one or the other)

Did the keyword search not find what you need? Run an advanced search using the MESH database to find relevant MESH terms to include in your search strategy. **Contact your Pharmacy Liaison Librarian, Caitlin Carter, for help with creating effective searches!**

Also, always keep a record of your search strategies and consider searching more than one database. Embase and International Pharmaceutical Abstracts contain research articles not found in PubMed.